

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /082 W

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O R 070945Z APR 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0936

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0159

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: WORKING GROUP DRAFT REPORT ON DATA REQUIRING

AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST

REF USNATO 1762

1. OUR MAIN COMMENT ON THE WORKING GROUP PAPER ON DATA  
REQUIRING AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST IS CONTAINED IN THE  
DIVERGENT TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT MATTER IN THE  
PAPER SENT SEPTEL. WE WOULD MAKE A FEW SPECIFIC COMMENTS  
IN ADDITION. FIRST, WE CONCUR WITH THE WORKING GROUP  
PAPER'S FINDING THAT AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST ON NUMERICAL  
LEVELS OF FORCES PRIOR TO REDUCTIONS IS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR  
AN AGREEMENT ON THE LINES OF THE ALLIED PHASE I PROPOSAL.  
HOWEVER, THE PAPER SEEMS TO LEAD TO THE GENERAL

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CONCLUSION THAT NO AGREEMENT ON NUMBERS IS REALLY

NECESSARY IN PHASE I OR FOR THAT MATTER IN PHASE II  
EXCEPT FOR THE SPECIFICATION OF THE COMMON CEILING.  
THIS GOES TOO FAR. THE PAPER RESERVES TOO MANY ISSUES  
FOR AGREEMENT ON DATA FOR PHASE II AND CONSEQUENTLY  
FALLS BELOW THE MINIMUM PHASE I REQUIREMENTS FOR AGREED  
FIGURES OUR ANALYSIS INDICATES IS NECESSARY. WE  
THINK THIS IS A RISKY APPROACH, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS  
FAILURE TO PIN DOWN NUMERICALLY THE RESIDUAL LEVEL OF  
SOVIET FORCES FOLLOWING PHASE I REDUCTIONS.

2. THE PAPER CONFUSES VERIFICATION AND DATA REQUIREMENTS.  
AS WE SEE IT, NUMERICAL DATA ARE NECESSARY FOR REACHING  
AGREEMENT ON THE EXTENT OF REDUCTIONS AND FOR ESTABLISHING  
CLEAR OBLIGATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. THE QUESTION OF HOW  
AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BEST BE FORMULATED TO FACILITATE  
VERIFICATION IS A SEPARATE ISSUE. YET THE PAPER STRESSES  
THAT REDUCTIONS BE BY UNITS, IN ORDER TO EASE VERIFICA-  
TION, RATHER THAN ASKING WHAT NUMERICAL DATA SHOULD BE  
AGREED WITH THE EAST TO ESTABLISH A CLEAR CONTRACT.  
MOREOVER, THIS EMPHASIS ON UNITS COULD REINFORCE THE  
EASTERN REQUIREMENT THAT THE WEST REDUCE ONLY BY UNITS.  
THIS COULD BE HARMFUL BOTH TO US INTERESTS IN PHASE I  
AND ALLIED, PARTICULARLY FRG, INTERESTS IN PHASE II.  
IN ADDITION, DESPITE THE PAPER'S RECOGNITION THAT  
RESIDUAL LIMITS ON THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF UNITS PERMITTED  
BOTH SIDES WOULD LIMIT ALLIED FLEXIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE,  
THE PAPER NONTHELESS CREATES AN OPENING FOR SUCH LIMI-  
TATIONS THROUGH ITS EMPHASIS ON UNITS AS THE BEST WAY IN  
WHICH AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE REACHED WITH  
THE EAST.

3. THE PAPER FORESEES ONLY A GENERALLY WORDED NO-  
INCREASE COMMITMENT INSTEAD OF A NUMERICALLY SPECIFIED  
RESIDUAL CEILING AFTER PHASE I. BUT, AS OUR ANALYSIS  
INDICATES, A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT WHICH HAS NO NUMERICAL  
BASIS MAY BE SATISFACTORY FOR NATO AND WARSAW PACT  
TOTALS BUT IS OF HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE VALUE WHEN APPLIED  
TO SOVIET FORCES. RESOR

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